

**REMARKS**

**I. Status of Claims**

Claims 1-27 are pending in this application. Applicants acknowledge and appreciate that claims 25 and 26 have been allowed, and that claims 5-7, 15-20, 22, and 24 were indicated to contain allowable subject matter. (*Office Action* at p. 4.) No claims have been amended in this Reply.

**II. Double Patenting**

Claims 1 and 27 continue to be rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting over claim 1 of U.S. Patent No. 6,585,962 ("the '962 patent"). (*Office Action* at p. 2.)

Although Applicants respectfully disagree that claims 1 and 27 are unpatentable in view of claim 1 of the '962 patent, Applicants have filed together with this response a Terminal Disclaimer over, *inter alia*, the '962 patent to render the rejection moot. This rejection should therefore be withdrawn.

Claims 1-4, 8-14, 21, 23, and 27 are provisionally rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 2-13, 18-21, and 23 of copending Application No. 10/086,248 ("the '248 application"). (*Id.* at pp. 3-4.)

Although Applicants respectfully disagree that claims 1-4, 8-14, 21, 23, and 27 are unpatentable in view of claims 2-13, 18-21, and 23 of the '248 application, Applicants have filed together with this response a Terminal Disclaimer over, *inter alia*,

the '248 application to render the rejection moot. This rejection should therefore be withdrawn.

**III. Conclusion**

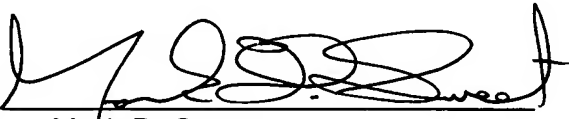
In view of the above remarks and the accompanying Terminal Disclaimer, Applicants request reconsideration of the application, and the timely allowance of the pending claims. If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would be useful in resolving any outstanding issues, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned at (202) 408-4162.

Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this response and charge any additional required fees to our Deposit Account No. 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

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By:   
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